

Amendment and Response

Serial No.: 09/821,669

Confirmation No.: 4980

Filed: 29 March 2001

For: METHOD FOR MAKING A STEM WEB

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D1 11. (AMENDED) A method of making a web material having a plurality of stems extending from discrete regions of the web, the method comprising:

providing a web;

providing a plurality of discrete quantities of a polymeric material on the web at a temperature above its softening point, wherein a plurality of discrete polymeric regions are formed on the web; and

forming a plurality of stems in each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions.

D2 21. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are located on only one major surface of the web.

22. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions are separated by inter-regions revealing exposed portions of the first major surface of the web.

23. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the web comprises loop structures adapted to lock with the plurality of stems.

24. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the web comprises an elastic web.

25. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises a plurality of stripes extending over the first major side of the web.

26. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions covers between 20 and 80 percent of the first major side of the web.

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D2 27. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the plurality of discrete polymeric regions covers between 5 and 25 percent of the first major side of the web.

28. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein each stem of the plurality of stems comprises a hook.

29. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane.

30. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein the web defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems are angled in multiple directions.

31. (NEW) The method of claim 11, wherein forming a plurality of stems in each discrete polymeric region of the plurality of discrete polymeric regions comprises forcing the polymeric material of the plurality of polymeric regions against a tool comprising a plurality of angled holes, wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to a localized plane defined by the web.

Sub E7 32. (NEW) A method of making a web construction comprising a plurality of stems distributed in discrete regions on the web construction, the method comprising:
providing a web construction comprising a continuous or substantially continuous layer of polymeric material, wherein the polymeric material is at a temperature above its softening point;

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Sub E17
D2 providing a tool comprising a plurality of stem-forming holes formed in a surface of the tool, wherein the plurality of stem-forming holes are arranged in a plurality of discrete regions on the surface of the tool;

pressing the layer of polymeric material against the surface of the tool, wherein a portion of the polymeric material enters the stem-forming holes; and

separating the layer of polymeric material from the surface of the tool, wherein a plurality of stems are distributed in a plurality of discrete regions on the web construction.

Sub E27
33. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the web construction comprises an elastic substrate on which the layer of polymeric material is located, and wherein the method further comprises stretching the elastic substrate after separating the layer of polymeric material from the surface of the tool, wherein the layer of polymeric material fractures.

34. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the web construction comprises an elastic substrate on which the layer of polymeric material is located, and wherein the method further comprises:

forming indentations in the layer of polymeric material between the plurality of discrete regions of stems; and

stretching the elastic substrate after separating the layer of polymeric material from the surface of the tool, wherein the layer of polymeric material fractures along the indentations.

35. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the plurality of discrete regions of stem-forming holes are formed by masking a portion of the surface of the tool.

36. (NEW) The method of claim 32, further comprising deforming of the plurality of stems with a heated surface to produce a disk-shaped end on the stems.

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37. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein between 5 and 25 percent of the surface of the tool is occupied by the plurality of discrete regions of stem-forming holes.

38. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the web construction defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane.

39. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the web construction defines a localized plane, and wherein the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to the localized plane, and further wherein the plurality of stems are angled in multiple directions.

40. (NEW) The method of claim 32, wherein the plurality of stem-forming holes are angled such that the plurality of stems are oriented at an angle that is not normal to a localized plane defined by the web construction.
